



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



May 1999

Location	Date	Time Local/ Standard	Path Length (Miles)	Path Width (Yards)	Number of Persons Killed	Number of Persons Injured	Estimated Damage Property	Estimated Damage Crops	Character of Storm
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MICHIGAN, East

MIZ048-053-061-063-068- Bay - Saginaw - Genesee - St. Clair - Livingston - Lenawee
082

	06	1200EST 1600EST			0	0	92K		Wind
Lapeer County									
1.4 NW Clifford to 1.7 NW Clifford	06	1550EST 1552EST	0.3	65	0	0			Tornado (F0)
Tuscola County									
6.1 SSW Kingston to 4.6 SSW Kingston	06	1552EST 1554EST	1.7	65	0	0			Tornado (F0)
Huron County									
7 SSE Bad Axe	06	1630EST			0	0	6K		Thunderstorm Wind (G52)

A strong low pressure system drifted east across the upper Mississippi Valley during the day. Strong south winds ahead of the low brought warm, moist, and somewhat unstable air into Michigan. These winds were at times enhanced by scattered showers in the area, as well as by a strong cold front that pushed across southeast Michigan late in the afternoon. Sustained winds of 20 to 30 mph were common, with occasional gusts in excess of 40 mph. The gusts were sufficient to down trees in Blissfield, Adrian, Howell, Flint, and Bay City. In St. Clair, a large truck unloading dirt was toppled. The worst damage occurred in the northeast side of the city of Saginaw, where a furniture store was deroofed.

A band of showers and a few thunderstorms developed ahead of the cold front. One of these storms briefly produced a tornado that crossed from Lapeer into Tuscola County. The tornado moved across open farmland, and did no damage other than throwing some dirt around. However, the tornado was observed by numerous eyewitnesses.

This thunderstorm continued northeast into Huron County, where it downed trees and power lines in the community of Ubly

Midland County									
Poseyville	17	1500EST			0	0			Hail (0.75)
Bay County									
Kawkawlin	17	1510EST			0	0			Hail (0.75)
Huron County									
Port Hope	17	1520EST			0	0			Hail (1.75)
Huron County									
Port Austin	17	1605EST			0	0			Hail (0.75)
Shiawassee County									
Owosso	17	1650EST 1653EST			0	0	10K		Thunderstorm Wind (G61)
Saginaw County									
3 NW Oakley	17	1700EST			0	0	5K		Thunderstorm Wind (G52)
Saginaw County									
3 S Saginaw	17	1722EST			0	0	3K		Thunderstorm Wind (G52)
Washtenaw County									
2 S Dexter to 1 W Ann Arbor	17	1750EST 1756EST			0	0	5K		Thunderstorm Wind (G52)
Tuscola County									
Caro	17	1800EST			0	0	2K		Thunderstorm Wind (G50)
Oakland County									
2 NE South Lyon to Novi	17	1805EST 1815EST			0	0	5K		Thunderstorm Wind (G50)



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<u>MICHIGAN, East</u>							
Washtenaw County							
Saline to 2 SE Saline	17	1805EST 1806EST			0 0		Hail (1.00)
Sanilac County							
Marlette	17	1810EST			0 0	10K	Thunderstorm Wind (G55)
Genesee County							
Swartz Creek	17	1813EST			0 0		Thunderstorm Wind (G52)
Wayne County							
Northville	17	1815EST			0 0	2K	Thunderstorm Wind (G50)
Oakland County							
Ortonville	17	1822EST			0 0	20K	Thunderstorm Wind (G60)
Oakland County							
Farmington to Southfield	17	1825EST 1838EST			0 0	5K	Thunderstorm Wind (G50)
Sanilac County							
Sandusky to 3 S Sandusky	17	1830EST			0 0	25K	Thunderstorm Wind (G55)
Lapeer County							
Metamora	17	1835EST			0 0	3K	Thunderstorm Wind (G52)
Oakland County							
Troy	17	1840EST			0 0	3K	Lightning
A lightning strike ignited a house fire in an attic.							
Sanilac County							
Deckerville to 7 E Deckerville	17	1840EST			0 0	50K	Thunderstorm Wind (G78)
Lapeer County							
Attica to 6 N Imlay City	17	1845EST 1851EST			0 0	8K	Thunderstorm Wind (G52)
Sanilac County							
Melvin	17	1904EST			0 0	3K	Thunderstorm Wind (G52)
Macomb County							
Washington	17	1915EST			0 0	3K	Thunderstorm Wind (G52)
Sanilac County							
Deckerville	17	1915EST			0 0	5K	Thunderstorm Wind (G52)
Monroe County							
3 W Luna Pier to 2 NE Luna Pier	17	1935EST 1937EST			0 0	3K	Thunderstorm Wind (G52)
Washtenaw County							
Whitmore Lake	17	2005EST			0 0		Hail (0.88)
Oakland County							
South Lyon	17	2025EST			0 0		Hail (0.75)

An unusually warm day for mid-May in southeast Michigan, with temperatures near 90 degrees in many locations. The heat and humidity made the atmosphere very unstable, and allowed thunderstorms to develop in the afternoon. Several of the storms became severe during the late afternoon and evening hours.

The first few severe storms of the day were in the Saginaw Bay area, and produced large hail. The largest hail (golfball sized) fell in Port Hope.

As thunderstorm activity gradually migrated south, large hail reports became less frequent. The largest hail in the southern part of the area was quarter sized near Saline. However, these southern storms produced stronger wind gusts. The highest measured wind gusts were 54 mph at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, and 51 mph at the airport in Owosso. However, winds were estimated much higher in some locations. The highest estimated gusts were near 90 mph just east of Deckerville.



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MICHIGAN, East

The most common effect of the severe wind gusts was to down trees and power lines. Power lines were downed across Interstate 94 near Dexter, closing the freeway for a short while. A few agricultural outbuildings were destroyed just northwest of Oakley, just south of Sandusky, and east of Deckerville. Windows were blown out of a Marlette home, while a home in Northville lost a number of shingles. In Ortonville, the roof was torn off a dugout at a ball field, and a home had a falling tree go through its roof. A tree was felled onto a Sandusky home, heavily damaging a porch; just south of town, a mobile home was shifted off its foundation. East of Deckerville near Lake Huron, a travel trailer was moved by the wind.

Lenawee County

1.5 SW Rome Center to 3.4 NE Rome Center	23	1450EST 1500EST	4.9	35	0	0	15K	Tornado (F1)
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Lapeer County

2.7 NNE Imlay City to 6.5 NNE Imlay City	23	1751EST 1758EST	3.9	17	0	0	45K	Tornado (F1)
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A low pressure system moved northeast across northern lower Michigan late in the day. An associated cold front moved across southeast Michigan in the evening. Numerous showers developed ahead of the cold front in lower Michigan. Even though there was little, if any, thunder, these showers managed to produce two tornadoes in southeast Michigan

In Lenawee County, a tornado moved northeast across Rome Township. This tornado produced F0 damage along most of its path, but briefly reached F1 intensity about 2 miles northeast of Rome Center. At this point, the tornado destroyed a large metal shed, blowing debris up to a quarter mile away. The tornado also damaged an antique gas pump at the same site. Along the rest of its path, the tornado snapped off a number of trees, and damaged siding and rain gutters to a farmhouse. Just before it lifted, the tornado shifted a barn off its foundation, and partially deroofed two barns.

As an historical note, the path of this tornado coincided almost exactly with a segment of the paths of the Palm Sunday tornadoes of April 11 1965 - which were the strongest tornadoes in Lenawee County since 1950. In fact, local property owners commented that the structures that were damaged by the 1999 tornado were also damaged (much more heavily) back in 1965

The second tornado of the day affected Imlay and Goodland Townships in eastern Lapeer County. Just after touchdown, the tornado moved a two story home along Bowers Road off its foundation, resulting in serious structural damage. A barn across the street was partially deroofed, and portions of the walls collapsed. A livestock trailer and a dog pen were also moved, and a large tree was downed nearby.

Damage was comparatively slight in the middle portion of the track. Just before it lifted, however, the tornado struck another home, this one along Shaw Road. This two-year-old home was largely deroofed, with pieces of the roof found a quarter mile away. Several windows were blown out, and substantial tree damage occurred on the property.

The damage near the beginning and the end of the track are both consistent with an F1 tornado.

Midland County

2.5 N Midland to 4.1 NNE Midland	31	1738EST 1741EST	1.8	200	0	0	150K	Tornado (F2)
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Warm, moist air blanketed lower Michigan, as a low pressure system moved slowly north along a nearly stationary cold front in Wisconsin. A number of showers and thunderstorms developed in the warm sector. There was only one severe weather event, but that unfortunately was a strong tornado that hit the north side of the city of Midland.

Touchdown occurred at an apartment complex on the west side of Eastman Avenue (which is the US-10 business loop into downtown Midland). Power lines and trees were downed on both sides of Eastman Avenue, although little damage was done to



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MICHIGAN, East

structures. The tornado strengthened as it moved northeast across Woodpark Drive, uprooting trees, blowing out windows, and removing rain gutters and siding. Some trees were downed onto nearby homes.

The tornado reached its maximum intensity as it crossed Wackerly Road. It struck a Holiday Inn Convention Center, located between Wackerly Road and the US-10 freeway. The roof of the convention center was blown off, with some debris blown across the freeway. An air conditioner from the roof was tossed onto a nearby parked car. Several doors to the convention center were blown out. A trash can from the hotel area was blown onto US-10, where it struck a car.

The tornado weakened as it crossed the US-10 freeway. It moved through the parking lot of a Target store, at the southeast corner of Midland Mall. An outdoor shopping cart holder was thrown into a nearby field, and several trees were destroyed. As the tornado continued northeast, it downed a pair of large trees midway between a nursery and a WalMart.

Toward the end of its path, the tornado struck a church on Jefferson Avenue, just south of Letts Road. Large limbs were downed here, and siding was torn off some of the church buildings. A youth center under construction was partially deroofed.

This tornado tied for the strongest to strike Midland County since 1950. The only previous F2 tornado occurred on April 14 1974. The May 31 1999 tornado was the first tornado of any strength to hit Midland County since June 17 1992.